
EFFECTIVENESS OF DISTANCE LEARNING ONLINE AT HOME DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract

This study aims to determine the level of effectiveness of study online from home during the Covid-19 pandemic for teachers, parents and students. The method used in this research is a qualitative method which is literature study using books and other literature sources and is analyzed descriptively, namely research with reference to data collection techniques carried out by interviews, looking for data on relevant matters. Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that online learning is still not effective because of the many obstacles that occur here and there. This happens not only from the facilities and infrastructure but also the lack of readiness of both the educators, students, and parents so that the delivery of material in learning becomes less than optimal.

Keywords: *Learning from Home, Online, Covid-19.*

A. INTRODUCTION

The corona virus is a virus that attacks the respiratory tract and can result in death. This virus spreads very quickly and can damage organs. The Covid-19 pandemic hit many countries in the world, including Indonesia. The existence of the Covid-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact. Limitation to interact and meet face to face causes various activities to be obstructed. In the world of education, face-to-face learning in the classroom between teachers and students is not possible. Many schools to colleges have been closed in an effort to prevent the spread of covid-19. The students also became disturbed by their learning activities because the school was closed. Therefore, the Indonesian government took initiative steps so that the learning process for students was not left behind and continued. The government makes a decision, namely the learning process is carried out at home online.

Online learning is learning that utilizes technology with the internet where the learning process is not carried out face-to-face but by using electronic media which can make it easier for students to study anywhere and anytime. The learning process from home has been going on since March 2020 and is still being extended by considering the situation and conditions of each area. However, in reality, there are many problems found from unpreparedness to carry out this online learning.

In this research, it was found that some of the problems faced during learning at home online were felt by both students and students. Researchers found that the online learning process was still considered ineffective. This is because the preparation in terms of facilities and infrastructure is still minimal, there are still many students who do not have technological equipment. Lack of internet connection and also in terms of costs there needs to be an additional quota filling. Teacher readiness in teaching is also a concern, teachers must change learning strategies to make them more effective and must be able to operate technological devices. But in fact not all educators can operate technological devices.

Thus, the purpose of this study was to determine the level of effectiveness of learning at home online during the Covid 19 pandemic.

B. METHODS

This research is a qualitative research which is literature study. Library research is a method of bibliographic research in a systematic scientific manner, which includes the collection of bibliographic materials related to the research objectives; collection techniques with the method of literature and organizing and presenting data. Library research is a research activity carried out by collecting information as well as data from various kinds of materials in the library such as reference books, notes, articles, journals and related previous research results. Which is then collected, processed, and concluded by using a particular method or technique to find answers to a problem (Sari & Asmendri, 2020).

The data collection technique used is descriptive analysis, namely by describing a symptom, an event, an event that is happening now. Sources of data obtained come from interviews and searches for online journal articles. An interview is an interaction between two or more people, which allows for interpersonal discussions and can be used to obtain information both verbally and non-verbally. Searching for journal articles online is by searching for journal articles that use the keywords "online learning effectiveness", "covid-19", and "education". From the search results, various articles provide a lot of information. Then from the information on the article, there was a discussion on the effectiveness of online learning, covid-19 and education from several sources obtained, then the most relevant was selected (Jamaludin, 2018).

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Corona Virus Disease /Covid-19

Recently, the world is being shocked by the emergence of a virus that has hit almost all parts of the country. This virus is caused by transmission originating from animals. WHO has set this pandemic at a dangerous level. This virus is called Covid-19 (nCoV19/Coronavirus). This virus was discovered at the end of December 2019 before spreading to various other countries. In January 2020, WHO has declared that the world is in a state of global emergency related to this virus. This is an extraordinary phenomenon that occurs on earth in the 21st century. The scale may be comparable to that of World War II, because large scale events such as international sporting events have almost entirely been postponed and some have even been canceled. This condition has only happened during the world war, there has never been another situation like this before (Dana, 2020).

The Corona virus appears and attacks humans for the first time in Wuhan province, China. Its appearance is thought to have originated from pneumonia, with symptoms such as flu in general. Symptoms that can be experienced are coughing, fatigue, shortness of breath, fever and no appetite. Unlike influenza, this corona virus can cause severe infections and organ failure. Moreover, this condition is worsened if the patient has a previous history of health problems.

World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020 declared the corona virus as a pandemic because of its rapid spread. Because this global pandemic status indicates that the spread of Covid-19 can take place so quickly that almost no country around the world can escape the corona virus.

General Measures to Prevent Viral Respiratory Infections General steps for the prevention of viral respiratory infections according to (Tandra, 2020) include:

- a. Wash hands with soap and water.
- b. Avoid touching the eyes, nose and mouth with your hands.
- c. Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- d. The sick must stay at home to rest.
- e. Coughing and sneezing should be covered with a tissue
- f. Frequently touched objects and surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Infection prevention and control procedures for isolation at home based on the Guidelines for Preparedness Facing Covid-19 Revised 4 27 March 2020, by the Directorate General of Disease Prevention and Control of the Indonesian Ministry of Health (Tandra, 2020) as follows:

- a. Place the patient or person in a separate, ventilated room the good one.
- b. Limit movement and minimize sharing of the same room.
- c. Other family members should sleep in different rooms.
- d. Limit the number of people caring for the patient.
- e. Perform hand hygiene (wash hands) immediately every contact with the patient or patient environment.
- f. If washing your hands using soap and water, use disposable paper towels recommended.
- g. To prevent transmission through droplets, a surgical mask (flat mask) is given for the patient to use as often as possible.
- h. The person providing the care should wear a surgical mask especially if you are in the same room with the patient.
- i. Avoid direct contact with body fluids, especially oral or fluids respiration (phlegm, mucus, etc.) and feces.
- j. Do not use used masks or gloves.
- k. Provide sheets and special cutlery for patients.
- l. Clean the surfaces around the patient including toilets and showers regularly.
- m. Clean the patient's clothes, bed linen, towels, etc. using household detergent and water or use a washing machine with a water temperature of 60-90 C with detergent and dry.
- n. Plastic gloves and aprons should be used when cleaning patient surfaces, clothing or other materials that come into contact with the patient's body fluids.
- o. Gloves, masks and other waste materials during treatment should be discarded in the trash can in the patient's room which was then closed tightly before disposed of as infectious feces.
- p. Avoid contact with other contaminated items such as toothbrushes, tools food and drink, towels, clothes, and bed linen.
- q. When health workers provide home health services, always pay attention to PPE and follow recommendations for preventing disease transmission through droplets.

2. Online Learning

Online earning is a learning activity that requires an internet network as connectivity, accessibility, flexibility, and the ability to generate various types of interactions in learning (Firman & Sari, 2020). Online learning is a learning method with an internet-based interactive mode and Learning Management System (LMS), such as the Zoom application, Google Meet, and so on. Online activities include online classes, webinars, and all activities carried out using an internet connection and a computer.

The purpose of doing online learning is to provide quality learning services in a massive and open network so that it can reach more and wider study space enthusiasts (Sofyana & Rozaq, 2019). Online learning requires several supporting facilities, such as smartphones, laptops and tablets that can be used to access information anytime and anywhere (Gikas & Grant, 2013).

In an online learning development there are several very important analysis processes that can determine the steps for further development. Namely regarding readiness. This readiness is grouped into six factors, namely (1) student readiness, (2) teacher readiness, (3) infrastructure, (4) management support, (5) school culture, (6) face-to-face learning tendency (Jamal, 2020).

After the outbreak of Covid-19 in Indonesia, the government immediately took a policy for the continuity of the teaching and learning process, namely by means of online learning. The government has prepared a platform or application to support learning. Some of the platforms provided by the government to be accessible to make it easier for students to learn are reported on the page of the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture which consists of 12, namely, (1) Ruang guru, (2) Zenius, (3) Quipper School, (4) Sekolahmu, (5) Rumah Belajar, (6) Microsoft Office 365, (7) Meja Kita, (8) Icando, (9) Google for education, (10) Cisco Webex, (11) Kelas pintar, (12) IndonesiAx.

This online learning of course provides its own challenges for each related element. One of the challenges with online learning is the expertise in the use of technology on the part of both educators and students. Dabbagh in Hasanah et al. (2020) states that the characteristics of students in online learning activities are:

- a. **Morale to learn:** the enthusiasm of students during the learning process is strong or high for independent learning. During online learning, it is the students themselves who determine the completeness criteria for understanding the material in learning.
- b. **Literacy of technology:** not only independence, the level of understanding of students in the use of technology is also important for the success of online learning. Before online learning, students must master the technology to be used. Some of the tools used as a means of online / online learning are computers, smartphones, and laptops. The development of technology in the 4.0 era has created various applications or features that are used for online learning.
- c. **Interpersonal communication skills:** students must be able to master Communication skills and interpersonal skills are one of the requirements for success in the online learning process. Interpersonal skills are needed to build relationships and interact with other students. As social beings, they still need interaction with other people even though online learning is carried out independently. Therefore, interpersonal skills and abilities in communication must still be trained in social life.
- d. **Collaborate:** understand and use interaction and collaboration learning. Students must be able to interact with other students or with educators in a forum that has been provided. This interaction is necessary, especially when students have difficulty understanding the material. This interaction is necessary so that they are mentally trained. The existence of online learning also makes students able to understand collaborative learning.
- e. **Skills for independent study:** one of the characteristics of online learning is the ability to learn independently. Independent learning is indispensable in online learning. Because during the learning process, students will look for, find and conclude for themselves what they have learned. "Independent learning is a process where students are directly involved in identifying what needs to be learned to be in control of the learning process" Kirkman in Hasanah et al. (2020). When learning independently, motivation is needed to support the success of the learning process online.

This online learning does indeed provide new challenges for both educators and students, especially for educators. Educators are required to be more creative and active in using technology. Educators are also required to be able to design and design online learning that is lightweight and effective, by utilizing the appropriate tools and media according to the material to be taught.

3. Learning from Home

After the Covid-19 pandemic that hit the City of Wuhan, China became more widespread and then hit almost all countries in the world, including Indonesia. In Indonesia, the number who is positively affected by Covid-19 is increasing every day. In March 2020, the

government issued a policy in the world of education, namely to temporarily close all schools and colleges and no face-to-face learning which was replaced by online learning. These government policy rules are listed in Circular of the Ministry of Education and Culture (Kemendikbud) Directorate of Higher Education No. 1 of 2020 concerning the prevention of the spread of covid-19 in the education. The circular contains instructions from the Ministry of Education and Culture so that learning can be carried out remotely and advises students to study at their respective homes. The provision of course material is done online and the material can be accessed by anyone who needs it via the internet.

Given the situation and conditions that were increasingly urgent, the government then implemented Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB). In this regulation, the government asks all people not to interact much directly, leaving the house only for important things. This is an effort to break the chain of spreading covid-19.

These large-scale social restrictions are contained in the Health Quarantine Law Article 59 Paragraph 2 of 2020, which states that the purpose of this regulation is to prevent the spread of covid-19, a public health emergency that is happening between people in a certain area. Then the Health Quarantine Law Article 59 Paragraph 3 of 2020, explains that: "These large-scale social restrictions include at least school and work holidays, restrictions on religious activities, and / or restrictions on activities in public places or facilities." As a result, for a while learning could not be done at school. Learning must be carried out in their respective homes, namely by means of online or online so that teaching and learning activities continue as they should.

Under normal circumstances, learning from home and learning from school are of almost the same quality and purpose. What distinguishes only the use of facilities and supporting facilities. In an emergency, when the community is still haunted by the deadly spread of covid-19, the learning design model applied must be different because it is not as usual. The decision to study at home must also refer to the national curriculum used (Rasyid & Aswadi, 2020).

The use of online media such as several platforms or e-learning is a solution for the learning process at home and is believed to provide convenience in the teaching and learning process, as well as being able to communicate directly so that the material presented can be received easily.

4. The Effectiveness of Studying at Home Online During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Effective in KBBI means that there are effects (consequences, effects, impressions), can bring results, be effective (about business, actions), come into force (regarding laws, regulations). Since the Covid-19 pandemic that broke out in Indonesia, several government regulations were issued as a way to prevent the outbreak from spreading.

The existence of social distancing is one of the regulations promoted by the government. In this social limitation, people are not allowed to crowd together and also avoid physical contact. The existence of this social distancing regulation causes various activities to be obstructed. One of them is the world of education. The teaching and learning process will be closed from March 2020. And until now teaching and learning activities are carried out in their respective homes.

The emergence of the Covid 19 pandemic had a huge impact on the education. Many schools from elementary to college were closed, in order to prevent the spread of the virus. As a result of the closure of the school, the government then took an emergency decision so that the teaching and learning process would continue, namely by studying at home online or online. This is an effort so that the learning process continues and students are not left behind in receiving education. In this pandemic era, the learning process cannot be done face-to-face and students are required to learn from home.

Therefore, the role of the teacher as an educator must really be maximal, the teacher must be able to prepare learning equipment that can make it possible for students to learn from home. This becomes a challenge for educators to apply appropriate methods in the teaching and learning process. Because basically teachers are required to be able to do online learning, teachers' abilities in information technology are needed (Nugraha, Sudiatmi, & Suswandari, 2020).

Suggestions and infrastructure that are really needed when learning online are laptops, computers, smartphones and an internet connection as support. This online learning process is also carried out on several platforms such as WhatsApp, Google Meeting, Zoom, and other special applications available. According to several studies, almost many students have smartphones and laptops which are then used for online learning.

According to Kay & Lauricella in Firman & Rahayu (2020), the ability of smartphones and laptops to access the internet allows students to take part in any teaching and learning activities carried out in the form of video conferences or those carried out in online classes using available learning application services. by online.

The Minister of Education and Culture said that online learning is a process in adapting to technology. Adaptation to technology for children is easy. Especially now that schools are facing Gen Z, a generation that is very familiar with digital technology.

Therefore, children are more easily adapted to technology which then encourages them to easily move to the industrial era 4.0 which is very efficient in time and labor. In this case, students do not have to go to school by using the mode of transportation, simply study online. Especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, technology has become the main link in every learning process (Hamdani & Priatna, 2020).

Even though online learning is used as a solution to continue the teaching and learning process, it does not mean that its use does not have problems or obstacles. In terms of inadequate facilities and infrastructure due to lack of preparation. The Covid-19 pandemic that attacked suddenly caused the way of learning to change, which at first face to face now has to be online. Moreover, online learning requires technological devices that are not only for educators but also for students. However, in reality, not all have these technological devices.

In addition, internet connections are still limited in several regions and regions. Not all schools can facilitate internet connection as a facility for learning. If there is an internet network, the condition is still not functioning properly in learning using online media (Purwanto et al., 2020). This makes it difficult for them to follow online learning.

Apart from the device and connection, the other difficulty is the cost. In participating in online learning, students have to pay more to buy internet quota, because internet quota is also very necessary as an internet network connection. Especially when participating in a video conference which consumes a lot of quota.

Therefore, many view that online learning is still considered ineffective. According to the results of an interview with one of the students that: *"Online learning is not effective, sometimes we can't focus on digesting the same material. Sometimes there are also teachers, especially those who are already seniors, they are not used to posting materials online. So going to class is just to be absent from assignments and sometimes we don't understand the assignments that were given."*

This is also an additional burden for students, because students are given additional assignments by the school in the hope that given assignments students can learn more independently. Even though on the other hand students experience problems, namely the lack of information about the material presented is due to a lack of direct communication and interaction. As a result, students become depressed because of difficulties and confusion in doing assignments. Students also experience fatigue due to piling up tasks, are also bored with the learning atmosphere because they cannot discuss much with friends and teachers directly.

As mentioned in the study Abidin, Hudaya & Anjani (2020) described that the provision of material delivered by the teacher during online learning is largely not understood by students. It is evident from the large percentage value which states that 53% of respondents feel they do not understand the online learning material delivered by the teacher. Meanwhile, the other 47% find it easy to understand learning material that is done online. They stated that it was easier to understand the learning material directly/face-to-face because the material was delivered by the teacher in more detail, clearly and easily understood. If there is material that is not understood, you can interact directly with the teacher through question and answer.

Things that need to be considered are the limitations in the use of technology from educators. Not all educators are capable of operating technology. This can be seen from the senior educators. According to research conducted by Dewi (2020), some senior teachers are not fully able to use the tools or facilities to support online learning activities and still need assistance and training. Online learning is considered ineffective not only because of inadequate facilities but there are many mistakes in communication between educators and students. Here's an interview with a student's parents: *"During this pandemic, school children learn online. And children today are less enthusiastic about learning, they say they are bored with studying. Can't play and meet friends like at school. Sometimes they also prefer to play games instead of studying."*

This is because the cognitive and psychological conditions of each student are different. According to Hamdani & Priatna (2020), students are not familiar with the culture of distance learning because so far, the learning system has always been carried out face-to-face, students are more accustomed to being in school to interact, play, joke and joke with their friends as well can come face to face with the teachers. The existence of a distance learning method makes students need time to adapt in dealing with changes that indirectly affect their learning absorption.

Here the role of parents and educators is needed in online learning activities. Parents and teachers must be able to coordinate with each other in giving each learning assignment. In this case, teachers as educators must be able to maximize their role in guiding and controlling students when providing material and assignments so that they can run effectively. For example, by asking students for their assignments to be photographed or by video calling during the learning process.

In addition, it is very important and very necessary is supervision from parents. As much as possible, parents should be able to accompany their children when online learning is taking place so that children still want to learn and do assignments as instructed by the teacher.

Mahardika in Ameli et al. (2020), explains that the delivery tool is not a determining factor in the quality of learning, but the design in a subject determines the effectiveness of learning. The reason for choosing a learning strategy is that learning becomes more meaningful. So that the effectiveness of learning or not can be seen from the behavior patterns of educators and students as well as students' responses to educators.

From some of the results mentioned above, it shows that online learning is still not fully effective. But, if online-based learning wants to run smoothly and as expected, the solution is that there must be control in the learning process. On the other hand, online learning is currently the best alternative, considering that the current situation and conditions due to the Covid-19 pandemic have not subsided. At least, when learning online we become accustomed to using technological devices and learning using online media. According to interviews with students, it was stated that: *"In my opinion, it is effective or not depending on the media used as well as the delivery method. For example, zoom, in my opinion it is effective if the delivery is fully oral plus there is a slide show. And the lecturer did not only explain what was written on the slide, but also more broadly. That's an effective rate of 75%. It's different if it's only in WhatsApp and e-learning by sending slides, then orders to read and then discuss if someone is asked. Its*

effectiveness only reaches 40% because it tends to be unattractive. Unless the discussion is interesting."

It must be admitted that the learning process in schools is the best public policy tool as an effort to increase knowledge and skills in learning. In addition, many students also think that school is a very fun activity, they can interact with each other, and the school can improve social skills. The school as a whole is a medium of interaction between students and teachers to improve intelligence, abilities and affection between them. But because of the COVID-19 pandemic, learning activities at school had to stop (Sari, Tussyantari & Suswandari, 2021).

But through this online learning there is a positive impact on students and educators. Online learning has a good impact on educators so that they are even more creative in animating learning as well as training them to become more familiar with technology tools. Also, for students, they have more experience in learning, train to be more independent and active, are able to improve memory, learning is not just listening to the teacher but can use text, audio, video, and various kinds of animation which are all used to convey a information (Rosali, 2020). Even so, online learning during this pandemic also provides lessons so that we appreciate the meaning of continuous learning even though there are many times the difficulty compared to face-to-face learning.

D. CONCLUSION

From the results of the above research, it can be concluded that learning at home online during the Covid-19 pandemic is still considered ineffective. The covid-19 pandemic that came suddenly caused lack of preparation for online learning both in terms of facilities and infrastructure, internet connection facilities are still very limited, increased costs for buying internet quota, less optimal delivery of learning material, limited interaction and communication between students and students which makes students difficult in learning, and limited ability in the use of technology by educators, especially senior educators. But there is a positive impact with the implementation of online learning, both for educators and students, namely, educators are trained to be even more creative in animating learning and training to get to know more about technological devices and students also get a lot of new experiences and are trained to be more independent and active.

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